



Somerville Recreation Commission

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Recently, a prospective Eagle Scout approached us with a plan to build a volleyball court in town. Many students at Somerville High School play volleyball. The Township of Branchburg built an outdoor court at one of their parks and they are very happy with the opportunity for their residents to play volleyball at this court.

Somerville does not have many plots of land available for additional recreational facilities and economic times limit funds available for new services. When the opportunity presented itself to create a new recreational option for our residents of all ages for free, we jumped at the chance. The size of a volleyball court left us with even fewer places to consider. We looked at many sites in different parts of town. The environment became a major deciding factor on the final location. The Mastogen Drive site offered many plusses. There had been concerns about the conditions at the site and here was a chance to not only gain a court but to also get the support of a group of Boy Scouts who would take responsibility for the cleanup and care of the site. We saw opportunities to work with the students at the high school to offer them a new activity and ask them for their help in keeping the site in good condition.

The plan never called for bleachers or lights. The proposed sand volleyball court would not have changed the topography of the site, so as not to have a negative effect on the drainage, and the poles and net were designed to be removed during the winter.

At the last few recreation meetings as well as the last Borough Council meeting, many neighbors have voiced their concerns about the volleyball court. Many of the concerns stem from existing problems with the site. The Council and the Recreation Commission will try to improve those issues to the best of their ability.

After receiving approval for the volleyball court and an alternate project from both Somerville Recreation Commission and the Boy Scout Council, the Boy Scout has decided to move forward with the alternate project. The alternate project consists of creating a bocce court on the grounds of Carol Pager Park.

The Mastogen site remains one of the prime locations for recreation services, especially as a part of the Borough's Green Acres Program. The recreation commission will discuss this property further and the feasibility of holding public visioning meetings to get the full community's input as to what is needed within the community how to move forward with the planning of this Borough property. All are encouraged to attend those meetings.

The Recreation Commission would like to thank the Boy Scout, David Dzwonczyk, for coming forward and helping recreation. As we all know, budgets are tight and this is a great partnership opportunity between the citizens and the Borough to continue to improve our community. The Recreation Commission is always looking to take advantage of opportunities that could benefit the Borough of Somerville and offer new services to the taxpayers.

The Somerville Recreation Commission
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